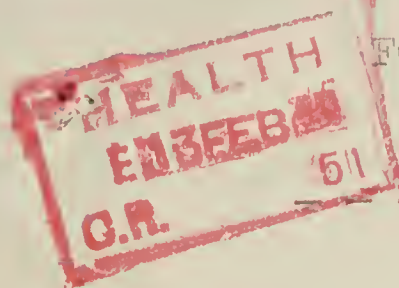


ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE BOROUGH OF GREAT TORRINGTON,  
FOR THE YEAR 1944.



During the period under review, the general health of the Borough has been good.

2. There have been 49 births, 24 boys and 25 girls. This is an increase of 12 on last year. This gives a birth rate of 16 per 1000 compared with 15 per 1000 for the whole of the British Isles.

3. There have been 40 deaths, compared with 42 for the previous year. The death rate is 13 per 1000 compared with the death rate of 12 per 1000 for the whole of the British Isles. (14 male, and 26 female).

4. Incidence of Tuberculosis: there have <sup>been</sup> 20 cases on the register, (13 Pulmonary, 2 Osseous and 5 affecting the Lymphatic Glands). This includes 3 fresh cases (2 Pulmonary and 1 Osseous). One person died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

5. Infectious Diseases : There have been 11 cases notified, ( Measles, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough, 3 each; Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum one each ). Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at monthly intervals, ( the last Friday in each month ), at the Red Cross Room.

I should like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the kind help I receive from Mrs.

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of v/

Eastmond on these occasions.

24 children of 12 months of age have been immunised in 1944.

In my half-yearly report to the Ministry of Health, I estimated that About 70% of children under 5 years, and 80 % of Children between 5 -15 years had been immunised, but it is impossible to give exact figures.

It is interesting to note that there have been no cases of Diphtheria notified.

6. The drainage system of the Borough is unsatisfactory. Two outstanding instances of this are:

i). the discharge into the stream leading into Lady Wash, There, what should be a charming little stream, is turned into an offence to both eyes and nose.

ii). the drainage from Underhayes direct into Common Lake, which grossly pollutes the water. This pollution ~~has caused~~ makes the Lake unsuitable for ~~feeding~~ cattle, and it has caused severe Enteritis in Children who have drunk the water.

7. The Water Supply is good in quality, though there have been two adverse reports. These occurred during periods of unusually heavy rainfall which ~~washed~~ <sup>caused</sup> an



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undue amount of surface pollution from cattle to be washed into the Reservoir. I recommend that the catchment area should be afforested, this would avoid the danger from pollution, and it would also increase the supply of water.

The distribution of the water is very unsatisfactory owing to the corrosion of the pipes and this can only be rectified by the laying of new mains.

B.R. Bickford  
M. J.R.



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